

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NEA-06 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-07 DODE-00 L-02 MBFR-02 H-01

MC-02 ACDA-10 RSR-01 PRS-01 /078 W

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R 181512Z JUL 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 859

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3140

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3415

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: COMMENTS TO PERMREPS ON ISSUE OF US TROOPS IN EUROPE.

1. AT PERMREP LUNCH JULY 17, CANADIAN AMBASSADOR
ASKED ME TO REPORT ON MY RECENT VISIT TO THE US
AND IMPRESSIONS OF THE PRESENT CONGRESSIONAL
SITUATION REGARDING US TROOPS IN EUROPE.

2. I EXPLAINED THE BACKGROUND OF THE ROSENTHAL
SUB-COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND THAT THEY HAD BEEN SHIFTED
INTO HEARINGS OF THE FULL HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN
AFFAIRS.

3. MY PERSONAL ASSESSMENT WAS THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL
SITUATION WAS SERIOUS BUT NOT HOPELESS. AT THE PRESENT
TIME A POLL OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WOULD INDICATE A LACK
OF DESIRE TO KEEP THE CURRENT NUMBER OF US TROOPS IN EUROPE.
HOWEVER, I NOTED THAT THERE DID NOT SEEM TO BE AN INTENSE
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PUBLIC OPINION ON THIS SUBJECT AT THE MOMENT. UNTIL
RECENTLY, MOST OF THOSE SPEAKING OUT ON THE SUBJECT WERE
THE OPPONENTS OF THE US TROOP COMMITMENT TO NATO, THE
PROPONENTS OF THE MANSFIELD AMENDMENT.

4. THE HFAC HEARINGS WERE AN OPPORTUNITY, AS PART OF A BROADER EFFORT, FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE BETTER INFORMATION ON AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE TROOP ISSUE, AND TO ADVANCE BETTER ARGUMENTS FOR THOSE WHO COULD BE PERSUADED TO FAVOR THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION, AND THUS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON THIS SUBJECT.

5. I ALSO NOTED THAT EXTENSIVE BRIEFINGS OF THE CONGRESS ON MBFR ARE NOW BEING CONDUCTED AND THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORT WOULD CONTINUE IN THE COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS. THE ADMINISTRATION MEANT BUSINESS AND INTENDED TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO INSURE THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES HAD THE FULLEST POSSIBLE INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT OF THE US TROOP COMMITMENT TO NATO, AND WERE FULLY APPRISED OF THE REASONS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION IN FAVOR OF NOT MAKING UNILATERAL REDUCTIONS.
RUMSFELD

CONFIDENTIAL

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USNMR SHAPE
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